

Lesley Weiss
Chair, U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad

Lesley Weiss was appointed to the Commission by President Barack Obama on April 20, 2011 and was designated by the President to Chair the Commission on January 25, 2013.

The Commission is charged by law with identifying cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings in Central and Eastern Europe that are associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens. It also seeks assurances from governments that these cultural properties will be protected and preserved.

In April 2013, Ms. Weiss served as a member of a U.S. Presidential Delegation to Poland for the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. She was also a member of the U.S. Presidential Delegation to Poland for the opening of the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews in 2014. She is a member of the U.S. Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Ms. Weiss is also Deputy Director of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ). She travels frequently to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where she coordinates community education and outreach efforts and promotes partnerships between American Jewish communities and communities in the region. She monitors compliance by the governments of the region in the areas of free emigration and religious and cultural rights.

She served in 2005 as a Public Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and Intolerance in Cordoba, Spain, and in 2007, to the follow-up Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding in Bucharest, Romania. In addition, she has represented NCSEJ at other OSCE meetings, including the 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, the 2010 Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination in Astana, Kazakhstan and the 2014 OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism in Berlin. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the 2013 Global Forum for Combating Anti-Semitism Conference in Jerusalem.